

FACT SHEET



Homeland Security

HSPD-8 in Context: the NRP, NIMS, and the Goal

Complex 21st century threats, exemplified by the horrific events of September 11th 2001, demand that all Americans share responsibility for homeland security. All levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental agencies must be prepared to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a wide spectrum of major events that exceed the capabilities of any single entity. These hazards require a unified and coordinated national approach to planning and to domestic incident management. To address this need, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5: *Management of Domestic Incidents* (HSPD-5) and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8: *National Preparedness* (HSPD-8) establish national initiatives that develop a common approach to preparedness and response. The initiatives are the **National Incident Management System** (NIMS), the **National Response Plan** (NRP), and the **National Preparedness Goal** (the Goal).

A Common Approach to National Response

- The NIMS provides a consistent framework for incident management at all jurisdictional levels regardless of the cause, size or complexity of the incident. Building upon the Incident Command System (ICS), the NIMS provides the nation's first responders and authorities with the same foundation for incident management for terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other emergencies.
- The NRP is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan for the management of domestic incidents. Using the template established by the NIMS, the NRP provides the structure and mechanisms to coordinate and integrate incident management activities and emergency support functions across Federal, State, local and tribal government entities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

A Common Approach to National Preparedness

- The Goal establishes readiness priorities, targets, and metrics. It will enable the Nation to answer three key questions: "How prepared do we need to be?" "How prepared are we?" and "How do we prioritize efforts to close the gap?"
- The Goal will enable entities across the Nation to more easily pinpoint capabilities that need improvement and sustain capabilities at levels needed to manage major events using the protocols established by the NRP and NIMS.

Each Reinforces the Others

Together, NIMS, the NRP, and the Goal define **what** needs to be done to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from a major event, **how** it needs to be done, and **how well** it needs to be done.

Together, these related efforts align Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and non-governmental preparedness, incident management, and emergency response plans into an effective and efficient national structure.

TWO COMPLEMENTARY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES

HSPD-5

Identifies steps for improved coordination in response to incidents. It requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies and State, local, and tribal governments to establish a National Response Plan (NRP) and a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

HSPD-8

Describes the way Federal departments and agencies will prepare. It requires DHS to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies and State, local, and tribal governments to develop a National Preparedness Goal (the Goal).